



SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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[Archive](#)

NSW GOVERNMENT RELEASES NEW METROPOLITAN PLAN FOR SYDNEY

The NSW Government today released the new [Metropolitan Plan for Sydney](#) (updating the 2005 version), which aims to guide future growth, including land-use planning and development for retail uses and activities ([Shop Talk 4/6/10](#)). The Plan maintains the long-standing 'city of cities' approach with a strong, more detailed focus on providing the majority of growth within existing and new 'strategic' and 'local' activity centres. While this approach is welcome, the real failure to date has been at the local planning level, through Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), where there is a lack of emphasis to enable existing centres to grow, either laterally or upwardly. This has often constrained retail development potential, so the real test will continue to be how the Plan (which is very clear in its intentions) is implemented on the ground.

NEW MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND SMALL BUSINESS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Simon O'Brien MLC has been appointed Minister for Commerce and Small Business (as well as Minister for Finance) in this week's reshuffle of the WA Ministry. Liza Harvey MLA has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business.

NEW QUEENSLAND AND NSW LESSORS DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

The new NSW lessors disclosure statement is now available [here](#) and a designed form will soon be available on the RTU website (www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/Businesses/Retail_tenancy.html). The approved form of the new Queensland disclosure statement is available on the Department of Justice website [here](#). These come into operation, along with the new [Victorian disclosure statement](#), on 1 January 2011.

WA REVIEW OF RETAIL TRADING HOURS ACT EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN 2011

In the recent Issues Paper on trading hours for retailers of whitegoods and other consumer durables, released by the Western Australian Government ([Shop Talk 12/11/10](#)), the Department of Commerce advised that it "intends to subsequently commence a statutory review of the operation and effectiveness of the *Retail Trading Hours Act 1987*, as required by section 41(1) of the Act". No date has been set for the review but it is expected to commence in 2011.

NEW NATIONAL LICENSING SYSTEM FOR REAL ESTATE AGENTS IS A STEP CLOSER

The new national licensing system for a range of occupations (including real estate agents), which will permit licensees to operate in all states and territories, is a step closer. The *Occupational Licensing National Law Act 2010* has been assented to in Victoria and the remaining states and territories can now pass the law in their jurisdictions and Queensland and NSW have now done so. The new National Occupational Licensing System is expected to begin operation on 1 July 2012. Further information is available at www.nola.gov.au.

DECEMBER ISSUE OF SHOPPING CENTRE NEWS IS NOW AVAILABLE

The 'Little Guns' Issue of [SCN \(Shopping Centre News\)](#) has now been published. This includes the listing of the top 100 'Little Guns' (generally between 20,000m² and 40,000m² GLA) shopping centres. This also includes an article on the background to the threatened cleaners dispute in shopping centres and a feature on Stockland's current redevelopment program. For subscriptions please phone (02) 9555 7493 or email: subscriptions@shoppingcentrenews.com.au.